

Federal Certification Requirements for Certain Alien Health Care Workers Licensed by the Office of Licensing and Registration

Occupational Therapists

Physical Therapists

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2004

Dear Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of a federal certification requirement that applies to alien immigrant and non-immigrant health care workers who wish to enter the United States, renew their visas, or change their immigration status. Occupational therapists are one of seven categories of health care workers who are subject to the registration requirement. If you are a United States citizen, this does not apply to you.

A waiver of the certification requirement for nonimmigrant aliens expires on July 26, 2004. Effective that date, an alien occupational therapist may not enter the United States for the primary purpose of performing labor, renew a visa, or change immigration status unless a recognized credentialing organization has certified:

1. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are comparable with that required for an American health care worker of the same type;
2. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are authentic and, in the case of a license, unencumbered;
3. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for admission into the United States;
4. Either that the alien has passed a test predicting success on the occupation's licensing or certification examination, provided such a test is recognized by a majority of states licensing the occupation for which the certification is issued, or that the alien has passed the occupation's licensing or certification examination; and
5. That the alien meets certain English language proficiency requirements.

No waiver is in effect for *immigrant* aliens.



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(207) 624-8563 (HEARING IMPAIRED)

PHONE: (207)624-8626 (OFFICE PHONE)

FAX: (207)624-8637

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 122 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

Full details regarding these requirements are set out in the Department of Homeland Security Rule entitled “Certificates for Certain Health Care Workers” as published in the July 25, 2003 edition of the Federal Register, 68 Fed.Reg. 43901 and codified in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 103, 212, 214, 245, 248 and 299. For additional information, please see a publication of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services entitled *How Do I Apply for Health Care Worker Certification?*, which is available on the internet at http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/health_cert.htm#hc3. Or, you may contact either of the two organizations that are approved for certifying occupational therapists. The organizations are:

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651
(215) 349-8767
www.cgfns.org

National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy
The Eugene B. Casey Building
800 South Frederick Avenue, Suite 200
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-4150
(301) 990-7979
www.nbcot.org

The Office of Licensing and Registration does not administer the federal certification program and is sending you this notice as a courtesy. For this reason, we are unable to provide you with further information regarding the certification process.

Sincerely,

Penny Vaillancourt, Board Administrator

(Back to top)



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF LICENSING & REGISTRATION
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PHYSICAL
THERAPY**

35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

JOHN ELIAS
BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD
DIRECTOR

March 26, 2004

Dear Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of a federal certification requirement that applies to immigrant and non-immigrant alien health care workers who wish to enter the United States, renew their visas, or change their immigration status. Physical therapists are one of seven categories of health care workers who are subject to the registration requirement. If you are a United States citizen, this does not apply to you.

A waiver of the certification requirement for *nonimmigrant* aliens expires on **July 26, 2004**. Effective that date, a nonimmigrant alien physical therapist may not enter the United States for the primary purpose of performing labor, renew a visa, or change immigration status unless a recognized credentialing organization has certified:

1. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are comparable with that required for an American health care worker of the same type;
2. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are authentic and, in the case of a license, unencumbered;
3. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience meet all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for admission into the United States;
4. Either that the alien has passed a test predicting success on the occupation's licensing or certification examination, provided such a test is recognized by a majority of states licensing the occupation for which the certification is issued, or that the alien has passed the occupation's licensing or certification examination; and
5. That the alien meets certain English language proficiency requirements.

No waiver is in effect for *immigrant* aliens.



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GERALDINE L. BETTS
ADMINISTRATOR
PHONE: (207) 624-8625
Email: geraldine.l.betts@maine.gov

OFFICE LOCATION: 122 NORTHERN AVENUE GARDINER, ME
INTERNET: <http://www.maineprofessionalreg.org>

MAIN RECEPTIONIST
(207) 624-8603
FAX: (207) 624-8637
HEARING IMPAIRED (207) 624-8563

CATHLEEN A. BITZ, CLERK
PHONE: (207) 624-8689
Email: cathleen.a.bitz@maine.gov

KELLY L. McLAUGHLIN, CLERK
PHONE: (207) 624-8620
Email: kelly.l.mclaughlin@maine.gov

BARBARA J. SMITH, ACTING CLERK
PHONE: (207) 624-8689
Email: barbara.j.smith@maine.gov

Letter – Certification of Alien Health Care Workers
March 26, 2004
Page 2

Full details regarding these requirements are set out in the Department of Homeland Security Rule entitled “Certificates for Certain Health Care Workers” as published in the July 25, 2003 edition of the Federal Register, 68 Fed. Reg. 43901 and codified in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 103, 212, 214, 245, 248 and 299. For additional information, please see a publication of the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services entitled *How Do I Apply for Health Care Worker Certification?*, which is available on the internet at http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/health_cert.htm#hc3. Or, you may contact either of the two organizations that are approved for certifying physical therapists. The organizations are:

Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651
(215) 349-8767
www.cgfns.org

Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy
511 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-8406
www.fccpt.org

The Office of Licensing and Registration does not administer the federal certification program and is sending you this notice as a courtesy. For this reason, we are unable to provide you with further information regarding the certification process.

Sincerely,

Geraldine L. Betts
Administrator

(Back to top)



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BOARD OF EXAMINERS ON
SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE L. HEAD
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2004

Dear Licensee:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of a federal certification requirement that applies to alien immigrant and non-immigrant health care workers who wish to enter the United States, renew their visas, or change their immigration status. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are one of seven categories of health care workers who are subject to the registration requirement. If you are a United States citizen, this does not apply to you.

A waiver of the certification requirement for nonimmigrant aliens expires on **July 26, 2004**. Effective that date, an alien speech-language pathologist or audiologist may not enter the United States for the primary purpose of performing labor, renew a visa, or change immigration status unless a recognized credentialing organization has certified:

1. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are comparable with that required for an American health care worker of the same type;
2. That the alien's education, training, license, and experience are authentic and, in the case of a license, unencumbered;
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FAX: (207) 624-8637

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Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools
3600 Market Street, Suite 400
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Penny Vaillancourt, Board Administrator

(Back to top)